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These Webb words are fresh, at least
Bob Sherrard

SPEECH BY JAMES E. WEBB, FORMER NASA ADMINISTRATOR, AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 11 LAUNCH, JULY 16, 1974.

Dr. Debus, friends, it is a great honor to come back to this historic place to participate in this dedication of the John F. Kennedy Space Center as a national historic landmark. It is appropriate, I think, that this center is named for President Kennedy, because he understood the tremendous importance of his decision to create a rocket-powered transportation for the regions lying outward from the earth. He undertook to point men's minds toward the beckoning new space horizon which promised new knowledge and new ways to make progress toward a better life, not just for ourselves in the United States but for all mankind. He believed that the powerful new rockets that were opening up opportunities for man to explore the earth-moon system -- also to satisfy man's yearnings to escape the confines of Mother Earth and travel to the heavens -- could also provide a powerful stimulus to cooperation among nations.

Chairman Teague has informed you that some of those dreams are already coming true. President Kennedy believed that cooperation in space exploration could lead on to cooperation in other fields and to a more peaceful world. But what if cooperation could not be achieved? President Kennedy was a student of history and he knew that down through the ages the mastery of a new environment -- particularly when based on an out-in-front position in a major new technology -- had always profoundly affected the future of nations, their relative strength and security, their relations with one another, and the concepts of reality held by their people. He was determined to drive toward pre-eminence in the new space-age technology until a secure basis for cooperation could be achieved. He had no doubt that space could become as important to national security and to national development as the land, the oceans and the atmosphere, and that rockets and spacecraft could become as important as ships, submarines and aircraft.

Now in support of these concepts NASA has brought into being here at this historic place our most basic resource for launching men and machines into space. Here we can count on trained technical and administrative personnel, and a massive array of complex equipment to fuel and launch our nation's space missions. The successes achieved here result not only from teamwork between individuals, not only from effective interfaces between men and machines, but also because Dr. Kurt Debus and his associates in NASA, in the Air Force and other governmental agencies, in industry and in universities, have created a team of organizations -- which is a much more difficult undertaking than to create a team of individuals.

This Kennedy team of organizations has made it possible for the United States to sail on the new ocean of space. In history's records, I feel sure, of those events which have the greatest significance in marking our nation's progress the John F. Kennedy Space Center deserves the place that we accord to it today. Thank you very much.